

Application No.: 10/501251

Case No.: 57557US004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this amendment, claims 1 and 25 have been amended, claims 13 and 22-24 have been newly cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-21 and 25 are pending.

In the final Office Action, claims 1-8 and 10-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of WO 01/25077 (corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 6,748,993 to Shinozaki et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 6,585,023 to Azuhata. The final Office Action states that "Shinozaki et al. fails to show a third adjustable mechanism for the tape attacher." See page 2 of the final Office Action.

Azuhata discloses a tape holder comprising a tape guide plate 11, a tape attacher comprising a pressure roller 12 and a jig guide member comprising rollers 26 on a sub-frame 20. The adjustable mechanism associated with the jig guide member comprises the sub-frame 20, guide rods 22 and springs 25. The adjustable mechanism associated with the pressure roller 12 comprises the spring-biased sub-frame 20. The tape holder adjustable mechanism comprises the spring-biased sub-frame 20. The Azuhata apparatus lacks a jig guide member adjustable mechanism which is separate from the tape holder adjustable mechanism and the tape attacher adjustable mechanism. Instead, the same adjustable mechanism, i.e., the spring-biased sub-frame 20, is associated with each of the tape holder, the tape attacher and the jig guide member in the Azuhata device.

As amended, claim 1 now recites that "said jig guide member adjustable mechanism is a separate mechanism from said tape holder adjustable mechanism and said tape attacher adjustable mechanism." Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in Fig. 2 of the present application. Further, clarifying amendments have been made to claim 25. Support for the amendments to claim 25 can be found in Fig. 4. No new matter is involved.

This aspect of the present invention is clearly not disclosed, taught or suggested by Shinozaki et al. or Azuhata, whether taken singly or in combination. The only teaching for this aspect of the present invention comes from applicant's own specification, which cannot be used against him. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-21 and 25 define patentably

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over the Shinozaki et al. and Azuhata patents, as well as the other art of record in this case. Accordingly, it is submitted that the above referenced §103 rejection should be withdrawn and this case allowed.

Early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

2/2/06
Date

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